DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY

Today, August 6, marks the beginning of the fourth year of the Limited Test Ban Treaty signed by the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union. Since that time 112 nations have taken formal action to become parties to the Treaty.

The spirit of hope generated by the successful negotiation of this Agreement has been justified. The signatories to the Treaty have lived up to its obligations despite increased international tensions and the world has been spared the dangers of unrestricted testing of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere, under water, and in outer space. This Treaty stands as irrefutable proof that nations can agree among themselves to enter into arrangements for international control of nuclear weapons.

At the time the Limited Test Ban Treaty was signed, President Kennedy expressed the hope that it might lead to further measures to arrest and control the dangerous competition for increasingly destructive weapons.

President Johnson stated in January of this year that "The Limited Test Ban Treaty lit a candle of hope in the darkness. The gleam of that candle shows the way to a brighter tomorrow if we will but follow." Accordingly, President Johnson has instructed his Administration to walk the extra mile in seeking arms control agreements for the avoidance of war, and particularly nuclear war.

The United States Government has been working continuously to overcome the obstacles to a comprehensive test ban treaty which would ban nuclear weapons testing underground as well.

The United States has also pressed vigorously for agreement on other arms control measures such as a non-proliferation agreement and a cut-off in the production of fissionable materials for weapons use, among others, which would forward the spirit of the Limited Test Ban Treaty. As we enter into the fourth year of the Limited Test Ban Treaty we renew our pledge to exhaust every effort to accomplish these goals. It is our hope that the Soviet Union will negotiate with us in a spirit of compromise to reach an agreement on these and other proposals.

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